

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a) as being anticipated by Malgorzata.

Claims 2-35 have been found allowable pending submission of the requested references.

The Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 1 and requests reconsideration.

Claim 1 requires an automatic test pattern generator that considers hardware overheads incurred when each new testcube is added to the test set and test sequence lengths. The Examiner contends that Malgorzata discloses this limitation. The Applicant respectfully submits that Malgorzata has no teaching (nor suggestion) regarding hardware overhead generated being considered by the test pattern generator when a new test cube is added. The Examiner appears to be incorrectly reading the above limitation on the children pattern that are generated by Malgorzata.

Malgorzata suggests generating a limited number of test vectors that serve as centers for clusters. After generating these clusters, children pattern are generated. The children pattern are generated by applying a deterministic procedure or by random bit flipping (Malgorzata p 3, col. 2, 1st paragraph). Of the two mentioned ways of generating children, random bit-flipping cannot be based on consideration of hardware overheads for adding a test cube.

There is no teaching in Malgorzata that the hardware overhead of adding a testcube nor the test sequence length are considered when a new testcube is added when children are generated using the deterministic bit flipping technique. There is a general mention of detection rate and performance estimation. However, there is no specific teaching that these are in any way related to adding a specific testcube to the testcube set.

To anticipate a claim all the combination of limitations must be disclosed in the cited reference. Claim 1 should be allowed at least because Malgorzata does not disclose (or suggest) considering the hardware overhead in adding a testcube nor the sequence length when generating a testcube.


Claims 2-35 have been found allowable pending submission of the requested references. The Applicants respectfully file an IDS concurrently with the requested references. It should be noted that in the request for information under 37 C.F.R. § 1.1.05, the fee and certification requirements are waived.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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